

"I wish to extend my highest congratulations to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma/Myanmar in receiving the 2008 Congressional Gold Medal, which she was awarded in absentia. My colleagues in Congress and I are honored to welcome her to the U.S. Capitol today where she can properly acknowledge receipt of this award after living under house arrest for 15 years."

"Yesterday, in her first public appearance in the United States in 40 years at the United States Institute of Peace, Suu Kyi urged American thought leaders and policy makers to focus not only on easing economic sanctions, but on helping the Burmese government and Burmese citizens achieve what's necessary for democratic transition: education and healthcare reform, stable humanitarian aid, and structural protection of human rights and the rule of law."

"I share Suu Kyi's vision for the future of bilateral engagement between our two countries, and I am grateful for her courage and unwavering moral leadership. The future of U.S. global leadership hinges upon our ability to empower all global citizens to take control over their own destinies. As a Member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and longtime advocate for domestic and international human rights, I am honored to recognize Nobel Laureate, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for the 2008 Congressional Gold Medal Award."